

Senate Research Committee
Minutes of a Meeting
Thursday, November 26, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. in S-205

Present: C. Bédard (Chair); R. Bhat; F. Haghighat; R. Hale; N. Howe; J. Johnson; R. Lachapelle; L. Lerner; T. Mak; D. Pushkar; R. Roy; L. Santos (Recording Secretary).

Regrets: J. Beaudoin (Secretary); E. Besso; D. Howes, J. McGuire.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of October 22, 1998 were approved, with two minor changes; one typographical mistake on page 2 and the addition of F. Haghighat's name as having given his regrets.

3. Business Arising

Bursary Versus Salary Payments from Grants: There is no uniform system by which the University pays students for their research activities. Some departments pay students in the form of a bursary and other departments pay students in the form of a salary. When bursary payments are made, it means that the student receives all the money in one lump sum and no taxes are deducted. On the other hand, when the payments are made as a salary, it costs the researcher and the University more money in benefits, and taxes are automatically deducted with every payment. Some universities have lawsuits pending because they were paying students exclusively via bursaries and now the government wants them to pay back millions of dollars in taxes the government says it never collected from the universities.

Dr. Besso attended a CREPUQ meeting in which this issue was debated and there seems to be no uniformity. Federal granting agencies say that it is up to the Universities to pay in any form they wish.

Dr. Bédard also brought this issue to light at a meeting of the Quebec Deans of Graduate Studies.

Various committee members shared their experiences. Dr. Pushkar informed the committee that our Treasury and Human Resources staff obliged her to change from bursary to salary payments. Dr. Hale said that the university told her the same thing. Dr. Bhat believes that Mechanical Engineering switched again to salary in 1981-82. Dr. Roy believes that Arts and Science uses the

salary method of payment. Dr. Bédard told the committee that in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, in the past, they often paid in the form of a bursary, particularly since many students were international and wouldn't be able to take advantage of any benefits that a salary could provide (e.g. unemployment benefits).

1999 University Research Fellows: the two nominations for this award are Janice Helland, in the Emerging Researcher category, and Wagdi Habashi, in the Senior Researcher category.

Dr. Haghighat asked if the Fellows could be announced at the convocation ceremonies (perhaps in the Fall).

Dr. Pushkar asked if the same criteria as last year was used to select this year's nominees. Dr. Bédard explained that the same criteria was used, including citations, but that all criteria was considered when making the final decision.

Dr. Hale pointed out that depending on your field of research, citation have a particular meaning and that the letter of support should somehow indicate the importance of certain citations.

Dr. Roy explained that within the Faculty of Arts and Science, his office tried to balance the nominations that go forward (e.g. not to have multiple nominations from a given department).

The question of the first 12 years of experience as a researcher as a criterion for the emerging researcher category was discussed. The Senate Research Committee proposed that the guidelines for selection should be changed from 12 years to 7 years. The Adjudication Committee, for example, felt that some candidates who were at the end of their 12 years of experience at Concordia seemed more like senior researchers.

Dr. Howe remarked that the Nouveaux Chercheurs requires a professor to have 5 years of experience in the emerging researcher category.

The question of awarding one award to a full professor and another award to an associate professor was also discussed.

Motion: to forward the two nominations to senate.

Vote: carried.

4. **Chair's Report:**

C.F.I.: In the over \$350 K category, one out of three projects was put in a special category because of the construction cost exceeding 2/3 of overall cost, but was eventually turned down, because the CFI fund is

primarily intended to cover research infrastructure costs.

Good news: The other two projects are going to phase II for the over \$350K category; the Genomics Project of Arts and Science, and the combined Project of Engineering and Computer Science and Fine Arts Project.

F.C.A.R.: Launched a consultation process whereby the Présidente directrice générale, Mme Dillard, will meet with individuals involved with research at the University to consider their plan triennial 1999-2002. She particularly hopes to consider "new researchers" in their plan.

Comité de la Recherche: Mme Dillard made a presentation about FCAR's (CREPUQ) consultation process beginning in 1999.

5. Report from the Director of Research Services
(Dr. Bédard reported on behalf of Dr. Besso)

- *Grants related information:*

SSHRC Institutional Grant (SIG) distribution

- Reduction in share of Provost and VRR portion from 10% to 5%
- Calculations regarding distribution completed by ORS; funds are now available

Intellectual Property Management (IPM) program -NSERC- :

- Concordia is submitting an application, Dr. Besso is the applicant

- *Contracts and negotiated grants:*

- "Partners in Research" publication distributed
- Difficult negotiation with Spar now successfully concluded, with retention of students' rights as appropriate

- *Other:*

- Concordia is now a member of the Observatoire des Sciences et des Technologies (access to bibliographic data on research indicators)
- colloque annuel ADARUQ successfully held on November 12 and 13 at Hotel Radisson in Montreal; Dr. Besso stepped down as president after a successful one-year term
- Workshop on intellectual property hosted by ORS will be held on Friday, November 27, 1998
- IP policy for graduate students is available on the York University Website

6. **Question Period**

Dr. Bhat wanted to know about the SSHRC Institutional Grant and how it is used in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

7. **FRDP Advances**

Faculties are asking for advances because of the hiring dates of new faculty members. John Fryer who administers FRDP funds questions how far ahead and for what types of expenses the money is being used.

An email from Dr. Roy's office was circulated to Senate Research Committee members outlining a request for an advance on FRDP funding. Dr. Roy pointed out that nominal information on this message was not intended for distribution to SRC committee members. The request for funding was denied by the FRDP Committee.

Dr. Roy pointed out that usually new Faculty hires negotiate hardware packages through various means.

Dr. Lerner was glad to know about these types of arrangements.

Dr. Lachapelle asked why funds are not available exclusively for the purchase of computers. He suggested that perhaps we should not use FRDP funds as a means to acquire computers.

Dr. Bédard said that new hires tell Concordia that FRDP is definitely attractive as a startup fund and that FRDP is quite generous. He does, however, wonder if the funding should be for only two years instead of three.

Dr. Bhat asked if FRDP could review other types of requests like travel, related to international collaborations.

Dr. Bédard in turn cited the four categories of FRDP funding: startup, bridge, re-entry program, and MIDRI.

8. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 17, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. in S-205.

9. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.